



Meeting Minutes

General Government Committee

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8447

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

4:30 PM

Room 207

1. ROLL CALL

Present: 3 - Chair Jeannine Roe, Committee Member Julie Hankins and Committee Member Cheryl Selby

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roe called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A [15-0385](#) Approval of February 25, 2015 General Government Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

3.B [15-0386](#) Approval of March 10, 2015 General Government Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

3.C [15-0387](#) Approval of March 18, 2015 General Government Committee Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

4.A [15-0183](#) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year 2015 Action Plan

Committee members discussed the proposal from the prior meeting regarding \$219,714 for ADA sidewalk accessibility improvements. After review of options, Committee members agreed to recommend a proposal for enhanced ADA sidewalk mobility between State Avenue and Capitol Way near the Olympia Senior Services Center, with some reservations. The project area is also within two blocks of the Boardwalk Apartment SHAG senior housing and is a potential pedestrian walkway for resident access to restaurants, shops, and other services.

Chair Roe said she is not a fan of bulb-outs and would prefer to address some of the general sidewalk repair in downtown to foster economic development and ADA pedestrian accessibility. Committee member Selby also stated her interest in repairing

sidewalks for better ADA accessibility generally in the downtown area. Committee member Hankins, who is the Council's designated liaison to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), said she is concerned about losing momentum on the BPAC recommendation for better ADA accessibility between downtown Olympia and neighborhoods, particularly at Pear and Plum for use by residents at Pear Blossom Place homeless shelter and students at nearby schools. She spoke about the economic benefit for downtown Olympia of convenient and safe bicyclist and pedestrian access to downtown.

Based on staff recommendation, the Committee agreed by consensus to recommend the proposed ADA accessibility project in the State Avenue/Capitol Way area. They asked that a summary of their comments be included in the meeting minutes.

The recommendation was discussed and closed.

4.B [15-0353](#) Municipal Art Plan 2015

Arts Commission Chair Marygrace Jennings and Arts & Events Manager Stephanie Johnson reviewed the proposed Municipal Art Plan.

Committee members specifically discussed

- art corridors
- pre-development financial support for Artspace
- proposal to shift City Hall art budget to a City Gateways project

Committee member Hankins expressed concern about budgeting money in 2015 for undefined Artspace pre-development costs. She questioned whether Artspace is an "art" or housing project.

Each of the Committee members said they were pleased to see the proposed funding for gateways art and signage. They asked that the Plum/Union intersection be included on the draft map.

Chair Roe suggested forwarding the Municipal Art Plan proposal to the full Council for review and discussion with a unanimous recommendation from General Government Committee except for the Artspace proposal. Committee members Hankins and Selby concurred with the suggestion.

The recommendation was discussed and forwarded to Council for consideration at the May 26 Council meeting.

4.C [15-0354](#) Preparation for Council's Mid-Year Retreat on June 20, 2015

Committee members agreed to recommend the following format and agenda:

Location: LOTT Board Room (it is available and reserved)

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (working lunch included)

Facilitator: Kendra Dahlen. General Government Committee recommends Ms. Dahlen because she is familiar with Councilmembers, City issues, and City processes. Because a retreat agenda is proposed, General Government Committee members did not see the need for pre-retreat interviews or a final report from the consultant. Staff will produce summary minutes for the retreat. These parameters will help keep costs low.

Proposed Agenda:

1. New City Council Meeting Format - Review and adjust as needed
2. City Council Reports - Review and discuss General Government Committee Recommendations
3. 2015 City Goals -- Brief progress report
-- Discussion of most important targets for remainder of 2015
4. Reflections of Service - Comments from outgoing Councilmembers concerning highlights, advice, and goals for the City moving forward
5. Adjourn

The recommendation was discussed and closed.

4.D [15-0424](#) Oral Report - Advisory Committee Appointments and Orientation

Committee members unanimously agreed to recommend the following appointments:

- Kathy Murray to the vacant position on the Olympia Arts Commission
- Robert Ragland to the vacant position on the Olympia Planning Commission with the request that the Planning Commission chair meet with Mr. Ragland about the work of the Commission before the recommendation is forwarded to the Council.
- Mark Dahlen for a reappointment to the Thurston Community Television Board as Olympia's representative.
- Roger Wilson to the vacant position on the Utility Advisory Committee with the request that the UAC Chair meet with Mr. Wilson to discuss the work of the Committee before the recommendation is forwarded to the Council.

Staff Liaison Cathie Butler said only one vacancy will remain if the recommendations are approved. The vacancy is on the Design Review Board and is due to the recent change in Ordinance regarding prior Planning Commission appointments to committees. Committee members agreed to recruit specifically for the open Design Review Board position.

Ms. Butler said staff recommends re-instituting the general orientation session for new advisory committee members. Committee members concurred.

Ms. Butler shared an example of an Advisory Committee Handbook from Gainesville, Florida. Committee members said they were impressed and agreed that something similar would be helpful for Olympia.

The recommendation was discussed and closed.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Roe adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.